

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6292

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, CH, MZ

SUBJECT: PRC-MOZAMBIQUE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY. MARCELINO DOS SANTOS, NUMBER 2 MAN IN MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT, CONCLUDED TRIP TO CHINA BY SIGNING COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A TEXTILE COMPLEX. DOS SANTOS DELEGATION LEFT FOR PYONGYANG SEPTEMBER 24. END SUMMARY.

2. A MOZAMBIKAN DELEGATION, LED BY MARCELINO DOS SANTOS, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING AND MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF FRELIMO, LEFT PEKING FOR PYONGYANG SEPTEMBER 24, AFTER A VISIT OF 10 DAYS.

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, THE MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES JOAO BAPTISTA COSME, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND AUGUSTO MACAMO, MEMBER OF

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THE FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MET WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT HAU KUO-FENG, VICE PRIME MINISTER YU CHIU LI, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, AND AN UNNAMED VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON SEPTEMBER 15. THESE CONVERSATIONS RESULTED IN THE SIGNING OF A TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN PEKING ON SEPTEMBER 23.

4. SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE NOT REVEALED, BUT IT REPORTEDLY PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEXTILE PLANT IN MONTEPUEZ, A RELATIVELY SMALL TOWN IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF CABO DELGADO. THE ACCORD WAS SIGNED BY DOS SANTOS AND BY KU MIN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PRC NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION.

5. DURING THEIR STAY IN CHINA, THE MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION VISITED SHANGHAI, WHERE THEY MET WITH MUNICIPAL LEADERS AND VISITED FACTORIES, COMMUNES AND CULTURAL SITES, AND TACHAI, WHERE THEY VIEWED RURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT. THE PRC WAS FRELIMO'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORTER DURING ITS TEN-YEAR INSURGENCY AGAINST PORTUGUESE RULE IN MOZAMBIQUE. HOWEVER, SINCE MOZAMBIQUE'S INDEPENDENCE UNDER FRELIMO CONTROL, CHINESE INFLUENCE HAS WANED, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR HOLDEN ROBERTO'S FNLA IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR. DOS SANTO'S TRIP TO PEKING AND THE AGREEMENT BY THE CHINESE TO BUILD A TEXTILE FACTORY IN MOZAMBIQUE PROBABLY REFLECT A DESIRE BY BOTH COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THEIR CURRENT RELATIONS. IT MAY ALSO REFLECT MOZAMBIQUE'S DESIRE TO BALANCE ITS GROWING DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC AID WITH ASSISTANCE FROM PEKING.
CARSON

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